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been accompanied by an adequate map. The map appended is on a scale so small that in many cases it proves entirely insufficient. It is moreover a lamentable specimen of the map-maker's art.

Finally, let it be said that these criticisms are intended in no way to reflect upon the value of a book, into which so much industry and conscientious work have gone. It will undoubtedly become, and deservedly, the standard edition in English, of this indispensable source for the study of the earliest history of commerce between the East and West.

JAMES HENRY BREASTED.

BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

A History of the Eastern Roman Empire from the Fall of Irene to the Accession of Basil I. (A. D. 802-867.) By J. B. BURY, Regius Professor of Modern History and Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. (London and New York: The Macmillan Company. 1912. Pp. xv, 530.)

THIS is a continuation of the author's well-known *History of the Later Roman Empire from Arcadius to Irene*. It is on a larger scale and the history of this later period is treated more exhaustively. The first five chapters, about two-fifths of the text, deal with the reigns of the successive emperors, beginning with the fall of Irene and closing with the murder of Michael III. It is characteristic of Byzantine history that the period should be included between two palace revolutions. These chapters are largely concerned with the iconoclastic struggle, and of the remaining nine chapters, two are devoted to ecclesiastical subjects: Photius and Ignatius, and the Conversion of Slavs and Bulgarians. Five chapters treat of the relations with the Saracens, the Western Empire and Venice, Bulgaria, and the Empire of the Khazars and the Peoples of the North. The other two discuss financial and military administration, and art, learning, and education in the Amorian period.

It is scarcely necessary to state that the work is excellent; the author's fitness for the task is well known. But it is interesting to note in the bibliography a dozen titles of articles and monographs by him, dealing with such different subjects as criticism of source material, chronology, topography, and constitutional and administrative topics. There are also twelve appendixes to this volume, mainly devoted to criticism of original material or clearing up difficult points in chronology. The author's exact and minute knowledge has enabled him to correct many errors of fact in the work of his predecessors. The bibliography contains over three hundred titles of books and articles, about evenly divided between sources and secondary material, and this does not include all the titles cited in the notes. Apparently nothing of importance has been overlooked. There is an excellent English index and a Greek index.

Bury thinks that "there has been a certain failure to comprehend the significance of the Amorion dynasty", and hopes "that this volume may help to bring into relief the fact that the Amorion age meant a new phase in Byzantine culture". Acknowledging his indebtedness to Diehl's brilliant work, he shows "that the iconoclastic age was far from being inartistic", and that "for the second great period of her art, which coincided with the Macedonian dynasty, Byzantium was chiefly indebted to the iconoclastic sovereigns". There was a revival of learning in the field of philosophy and science, probably due to some extent to the "stimulating influence of Baghdad upon Byzantium and emulation between these two seats of culture". The University of Constantinople was revived by Bardas, either as the result or a cause of the "genuine revival of higher education and a new birth of enthusiasm for secular knowledge". "Photius gave an impulse to classical learning, which ensured its cultivation among the Greeks till the fall of Constantinople."

In reading this volume we can not forget Bury's admirable edition of Gibbon; the editor seems to be the spiritual heir of the eighteenth-century scholar. Gibbon might have written some of the passages in this book: *e. g.*, "In either case, those who stand outside the Churches may find some entertainment in an edifying ecclesiastical scandal"; "The historian, who is not concerned, even if he were qualified, to examine the mutual relations which exist among the august persons of the Trinity"; "Since we may venture to suspect that the majority of those who profess a firm belief in the double procession [of the Holy Ghost] attach as little significance to the formula which they pronounce as if they declared their faith in a fourth dimension of space".

The portions of the work which deal with financial subjects are the least satisfactory. The author states sums of money usually in English currency, taking as the equivalent of a pound of gold £43 4 s. Even when he adds that the purchasing power was about five times as great as at the present day, the statement is misleading; it is impossible to furnish a clear standard of comparison by any such rough and ready method. Much worse, however, is his statement, "We have some figures bearing on the revenue in the twelfth century, and they supply a basis for a minimum estimate of the income in the ninth, when the State was stronger and richer." Will some future historian attempt to estimate the income of Charles V. by using the financial statements of Spain in the nineteenth century?

DANA C. MUNRO.

Saint Francis of Assisi: a Biography. By JOHANNES JØRGENSEN. Translated from the Danish by T. O'CONOR SLOANE, Ph.D. (New York, London, Bombay, and Calcutta: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1912. Pp. xv, 428.)

THE large literature in English dealing with St. Francis of Assisi has received an addition of first-rate importance in the volume before